

MAYO CLINIC AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

The Mayo brothers gave a million and a half dollars to the University of Minnesota to be known as the Mayo Foundation and the income to be used for postgraduate teaching, research and the like. Subsequently they, and the Trustees of the University, considered the proposition of forming the Mayo clinic into a sort of regularly recognized and attached postgraduate school of the University. Under the suggested terms of the agreement, which was to have been finally acted upon June 5th and which was probably accepted, though we have not been officially advised of that fact, the Mayo brothers undertake to act as trustees of the fund and to defray, in addition, all expenses of this postgraduate department for a period of six years after September 1915, thus allowing the income from the fund to accumulate and materially increase its size by the time they finish their generous support. We certainly congratulate the University of Minnesota; it will soon have one of the best postgraduate departments in existence.

A SPONGE IN THE BELLY.

Occasionally it happens that in the course of a serious operation upon the abdomen, a sponge or the like will be left inside when the abdomen is closed. These cases are astonishingly rare, but they do occur and they frequently get into print—or into court—and excite the ridicule and the mirth of the layman generally. It is astonishing that he cannot realize the gravity of the conditions surrounding such an operation and the fact that his point of view is radically wrong. It is not surprising that an occasional happening of this sort should occur; it is a matter of wonder that it does not happen more often, even with the best of modern precautions, forceps attached, pads counted, etc. The surgeon, with his two hands wandering around in the belly of his patient and the life and health of that patient resting entirely in those two hands and the activity of those ten fingers, with every atom of his brain and nerves at the highest tension, might well be pardoned for thinking less of a sponge than of an artery or a subsequent infection. But the layman is uncharitable. Why not try to educate him a bit on this matter of sponges?

DOCTORS' OFFICE ROBBER.

We are advised that there is a man who is making a specialty of robbing the offices of doctors and dentists in the office buildings of San Francisco, and as the manner of his performances is in every instance about the same, the detectives have come to the conclusion that the many petty larcenies are all done by one man. It is suggested that extra precautions be taken in the way of locking things up, not leaving anything very valuable lying around, etc. It is not at all improbable that this same active gentleman may find things getting uncomfortable for him in San Francisco and may move to some other place to continue his operations. We would suggest to the physicians of Oakland, Los Angeles and other larger places that they be on the watch for him.

EXAMINE THE PLACENTA.

In every case of confinement it will be well to examine the placenta very carefully in the presence of some other person and to have recorded in your notes of the case the fact that this was done and the name of the person who witnessed the examination. Damage suits for alleged malpractice based on alleged negligence in obstetrical cases, are increasing. Referring to this point one of our attorneys, Mr. Morrow, writes:

"We have had from time to time the same point urged as a basis for suit, and while there is no doubt at all that every physician does make such examination thoroughly as a matter of course, nevertheless to have it appear clearly from the testimony of a nurse or some other person that such examination was made would perhaps keep patients from basing suits on such ground."

This is a very good place in which to remind you again about the importance of keeping sufficiently full records; and let the fact of the careful examination of the placenta, together with the name of the nurse or other person who was present and witnessed it, be a part of the record in every obstetrical case.

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